Withdrawal of Target Plus Scheme

1573. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment have taken cognizance of the concerns raised by auto sector against the withdrawal of Target Plus Scheme with retrospectively;

(b) whether Government agree with their concerns;

(c) whether Government are agree that retrospective withdrawal of Target Plus Scheme will impact the exports adversely; and

(d) what steps are being taken to address these concerns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Vide Notification No. 08 dated 12.6.2006 issued by DGFT, Ministry of Commerce, the rate of entitlement of duty credit was reduced to a flat rate of 5% for export during 2005-06. The amendments apply for exports from 01.04.2005. The Auto Sector continue to have access to duty free inputs for exports under Duty Remission and Drawback Scheme to neutralize the incidence of taxed and duties. Target Plus Scheme was a reward scheme, over and above the duty neutralization schemes.

(c) and (d) Exporters were taken into confidence by the Ministry of Commerce as early as March, 2005 as it was specified under Para 3.7.8. of the Foreign Trade Policy that changes might be affected in the scheme in terms of entitlement and rates. Exporters shall continue to have access to other schemes of duty free imports as well as the benefits of the Focus Market Scheme which has been recently announced.

Merger of Hindustan Cables with BSNL

1574. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the revival status of Hindustan Cables, BHPV, HEC, Braithwaite and Burn Standard;

(b) whether any merger proposal of Hindustan Cables with BSNL and wagon manufacturing units with Railway is being examined; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Government has approved revival proposals in case of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (HEC) and Braithwaite & Co. Ltd. Approval of High Court has been sought on the revival proposal of HEC. Implementation of revival plans in both the cases has been started. Out of the remaining three Public Secor Enterprises, Hindustan Cables Ltd. and Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd. have been referred to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for its recommendations. It has also been decided to refer the case of Burn Standard to BRPSE.

(b) and (c) The proposals for merger of Hindustan Cables Ltd. with BSNL and wagon manufacturing units of Bharat Wagon Engineering Company Limited with Railways were taken up with the Department of Railways respectively. They, however, did not agree to the proposals.

Closure of PSUS in Andhra Pradesh

1575. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down Hindustan Cables Ltd. and Cement Corporation of India in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such a sudden decision;

(c) whether any study has been made to look into the problems that have put these Public Sector Undertakings on the brink of closure;

(d) if so, the details thereof;